

Wisconsin's Fish & Wildlife Annual Report 2004-2005



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Wisconsin's natural resources are a vital part of our state's heritage and our way of life. Thanks to the fees hunters and anglers pay to enjoy hunting and fishing, the Department of Natural Resources, its partners and volunteers are able to maintain activities and programs that support the hunting and fishing that you, your family and friends enjoy.

This annual report for the state's 2004-05 fiscal year details how the department used your license and stamp fees and other funds to maintain fish and wildlife habitat statewide, monitor the health and abundance of fish and wildlife species, support public access to the outdoors, enforce our conservation laws and provide a range of other public services that support quality hunting and fishing.

There's a lot to be proud of this year:

- Fishery staff improved habitat on nearly 30 miles of trout streams, and sampled 822 stream sites and 474 inland lakes plus Wisconsin's portions of Lake Superior and Michigan. They raised and stocked more than 12 million fish and 20 million fry.
- Wildlife staff improved hunter access by leasing 112,895 acres as public hunting grounds, paid for in part by partner conservation groups.
- Wildlife and other staff continued efforts to eradicate Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer through comprehensive testing, herd reduction in infected areas, research, and educational outreach.
- Thanks to the efforts of about 5,000 volunteer instructors, Wisconsin trained 28,000 students in hunter education, bringing the total number of the program's graduates to more than 846,000 over 38 years.
- Conservation wardens, with help from the public and other law enforcement agencies, concluded two significant undercover investigations, resulting in the arrest of more than 50 suspects for the illegal commercialization and destruction of deer, turkey and fish.
- DNR staff developed and maintained Internet services that allow hunters and anglers to access detailed maps of DNR lands open to recreation, purchase licenses online, check their preference winner status, and access extensive information about state species and conservation programs.
- DNR staff acquired 17,800 acres and secured easements on another 8,058 acres of additional land for hunting, fishing and general public access, and constructed or improved 31 boat access sites and 12 fishing piers.

Thanks in part to the strong support of the Conservation Congress and its alternative funding committee, in addition to the many citizen groups who voiced their support, a fee increase allowed us to fill a number of fish and wildlife management positions this year, putting more staff on the ground to manage your fish and wildlife. Each chapter in this report provides more details on how the DNR invested your license and stamp dollars. Thank you for continuing to support Wisconsin's fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Scott Hassett".

Scott Hassett, Secretary

Wisconsin's Fish & Wildlife Annual Report 2004-2005

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Cover Photo: Leah Hujik, 4, and a 13-inch crappie on Little Crooked Lake
by Bob Hujik





Summary

Wisconsin's Fish and Wildlife Account: Revenues from sales of hunting and fishing licenses and stamps are key to conservation efforts in Wisconsin. This money, combined with other funds such as federal excise taxes from consumer purchases of hunting and fishing equipment, makes up the Fish and Wildlife Account.

The Fish and Wildlife Account is the chief source of funding for the fish and wildlife conservation programs in Wisconsin that are important to you. The Fish and Wildlife Account pays for habitat protection, fish and wildlife species management and research, land and facilities management and conservation law enforcement.

This account also pays for services that support these conservation functions, including customer service and licensing, public information and education, computer-based technology services, human resources support, financial administration and regional management.

State and federal authorities routinely audit the Fish and Wildlife Account to ensure that the funding is spent only on programs and activities that support fish and wildlife. Funds from the Fish & Wildlife Account cannot, by law, be spent for other purposes.

Total FY05 spending: This report covers how the DNR used Fish and Wildlife Account funds during fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005). In FY05, the DNR spent \$86.2 million on activities that support hunting and fishing in Wisconsin. That figure represents \$1.1 million more in spending compared to the FY04 total of \$85.0 million. This 1.3% increase over last year's

expenditures is mostly the result of increased operations costs.

For more detailed financial figures describing total expenditures from the Fish and Wildlife Account in 2004-05, please see page 5.

Other funding sources

The \$86.2 million the Department of Natural Resources spent in FY05 represents 17.3 percent of total funds the agency spent on all programs. Other funding sources outside the Fish & Wildlife Account that support Wisconsin conservation efforts include:

Boating, All-terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile funds: Provide programs and enforce laws that ensure public safety in the outdoors. These funds also are used to maintain trails, bridges, boat landings and piers that give anglers and hunters access to fishing and hunting.

Endangered Resources funds: Support habitat management for fish and wildlife on about 58,000 acres of state natural areas, many of which offer fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Forestry funds: Support management of 452,331 acres for habitat, camping, hiking, hunting and fishing.

General tax revenue and bonding (such as Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program): Acquire land for fish and wildlife habitat to provide public hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife observation and other outdoor recreation.

Nonpoint Funds: Improve water quality by controlling erosion and runoff (known as nonpoint source pollution) that harm fish and wildlife habitat.

Parks funds: Provide habitat, fishing and hunting programs, and educational programs about fish, wildlife and outdoor skills.

Wetland Protection Funds: Provide good habitat for fish and wildlife by protecting wetlands.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine: Provided as part of Conservation Patron License benefits. The magazine is also available by subscription to the general public. It provides timely, accurate information to hunters, anglers and other people interested in the state's natural resources.





TOTAL DNR Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2005—All Funding Sources

In addition to managing fish, wildlife and conservation law enforcement, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also is responsible for managing air and water quality, waste, forestry, parks and trails and public land acquisition and maintenance. The DNR spent **\$498.8 million** in **FY05** to carry out these responsibilities.

DNR Expenditures for Fish and Wildlife in FY05

Funds the DNR spent on fish and wildlife in **FY05** totaled **\$86.2 million**, or **17.3%** of the agency's overall expenditures. The \$86.2 million was spent from a variety of funds, including fishing and hunting license fees, wildlife stamp fees, federal funds, grants and donations.

Figures below in millions of dollars

General License Fees Spent..... 59.1

Dedicated Funds Spent

Salmon Stamp.....	1.4
Trout Stamp	1.1
Sturgeon License	0.2
Turkey Stamp	0.6
Pheasant Stamp	0.4
Waterfowl Stamp.....	0.3
Wildlife Damage	5.1
Subtotal	9.1

Federal/Misc. Funds Spent

Sport Fish Restoration ¹	7.4
Pittman Robertson ²	5.0
Misc grants/other sources.....	3.7
Subtotal	16.1

Related Funds Spent

Federal Indirect	1.4
Gifts and Donations.....	0.3
Conservation Aids—Program Administration	0.2
Subtotal	1.9

Total 86.2

¹ **Sport Fish Restoration funds** are revenues collected from several sources, including manufacturers of fishing rods, lures and other sport fishing equipment who pay an excise tax on these items to the U.S. Treasury. Other funds are collected from import duties on sport fishing equipment, pleasure boats and yachts, and a tax on motorboat fuel sales. Funds are distributed each year to states for sport fish restoration.

² **Pittman Robertson funds** are revenues collected from the manufacturers of sporting arms, ammunition, archery equipment and handguns, who pay an excise tax on these items to the U.S. Treasury. Funds are distributed each year to states for wildlife restoration and hunter education.

Where Each Fish & Wildlife Dollar Goes

Each fish and wildlife dollar is spent on seven major types of activities the DNR performs. The percent of expenditures by major activity is shown in the graphic. This report's chapters coincide with and provide more detail on expenditures within each major activity.

Percentage of each Fish and Wildlife Dollar spent by major activity

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Fish..... | 28.1% |
| 2. Wildlife..... | 28.7% |
| 3. Enforcement | 18.0% |
| 4. Facilities & Lands..... | 9.4% |
| 5. Licenses..... | 7.0% |
| 6. Regional management | 1.7% |
| 7. Administration & Support..... | 7.1% |



Fish

Chapter 1

Protecting, improving and managing Wisconsin's fisheries resources and aquatic habitats for the benefit of all the state's citizens.

The Fish and Wildlife Account pays \$24.2 million or 77 percent of the \$31.5 million fisheries management, research, and habitat protection programs, and 264 of the fisheries program's 334 positions.

The remaining 70 positions and \$7.3 million are provided through general tax funds, federal funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, water regulation permits and other fees, and federal grants.

Where does the Fisheries program use your money?

(in millions of dollars)

Evaluate fish populations and conduct research	8.2
Rear and stock fish	5.3
Protect and improve habitat	3.6
Inform and educate the public	0.4
Develop rules and regulations	0.5
Pay program operations costs	6.2
Total	24.2

How is fisheries work funded?

Funding Source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish and Wildlife Account		
License Fees	15.9	51
Sturgeon license	0.2	<1
Salmon Stamp	1.3	4
Trout Stamp	1.1	4
Sport Fish Restoration	4.7	15
Misc. grants and donations	1.0	3
Subtotal - Fish and Wildlife Account	24.2	77
Rest of the Conservation Fund	1.6	5
General taxes (GPR)	5.7	18
Total	31.5	100

What did we accomplish for you in 2004–2005?

Ninety-three percent of our 264 fisheries positions are field positions in local offices or hatcheries, where staff work directly with area anglers, groups and communities to improve fishing opportunities across Wisconsin.

Despite budget belt-tightening in 2004-05, which included closing the Langlade Fish Hatchery, minor cuts to stocking, and less habitat work due to 27 staff vacancies kept unfilled to reduce costs, the Fisheries program completed a wide range of fisheries management projects and activities.

Conducted science-based fisheries management work: We monitored fish populations and angler and commercial harvest, set and evaluated harvest regulations and stocking quotas, planned and implemented habitat restoration and improvement projects, and reviewed stocking, fish farm and water regulation permits. We also conducted educational and cooperative activities with the public, and sampled fish populations and habitat quality in 2004-2005 on 822 stream sites and 474 lakes.

Assured sustainable walleye populations while accommodating sport fish harvest and court-mandated tribal treaty fishing rights: In the 30 northern counties the Chippewa Tribe ceded to the U.S. government in 1854, we continued federally-required monitoring of walleye and musky fish populations, and state and tribal harvest in the ceded territory's 860 walleye and 665 musky lakes. Comprehensive monitoring ensures that fish populations are not over-harvested and remain healthy.

Monitored Great Lakes sport and commercial fish populations and harvest: Fisheries staff working in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior operate three large research vessels, set harvest quotas and regulations, set and evaluate stocking quotas, and cooperate with other states and provinces. Sales of the Great Lakes Salmon and Trout stamp provide funds for fish stocking, which is needed to maintain salmon and trout fisheries.

Sampled fish populations for mercury, PCBs and other potentially harmful contaminants: We have documented that the vast majority of waters in Wisconsin have large populations of fish that are healthy to eat on a regular basis. Each year we publish a fish health advisory for sport caught fish which identifies those waters or species and sizes of fish for which anglers should avoid or limit their fish consumption. In 2004-2005,

we sampled fish from 86 locations in 62 waters.

Improved trout stream habitat: Using dedicated funds from inland trout stamp revenues supplemented by regular operating funds, in 2004-2005 fisheries staff, often working with partner groups, improved nearly 30 miles of trout habitat, bringing to more than 675 the stream miles improved since the program began in 1979. Each year, the \$1.1 million raised by the sale of trout stamps and patron licenses is spent to restore and improve 25 to 30 miles of degraded trout streams.

Protected critical habitat and provided fishing access; maintained boat launches and shore-fishing piers: Over the years, we've acquired almost 120,000 acres of fishery lands and stream easements. In 2004-2005, we worked with DNR lands staff to acquire 1,102 acres for \$2,914,981 for state public fishery areas. Seven new shore fishing facilities were completed in 2005 and add to the more than 100 other sites built with federal Sport Fish Restoration funding and support from local communities and fishing clubs.

A decade of work by biologists and conservation groups to improve walleye spawning habitat in the Lake Winnebago system is yielding many large walleyes and big year-classes of walleye. With strong survival of these young fish, anglers can expect plenty of quality fishing through 2012. The organizations helping restore walleye habitat include Walleyes for Tomorrow, Shadows on the Wolf, Otter Street Fishing Club, and Sturgeon for Tomorrow. Their generous donations and the work of fisheries biologists are making fishing better throughout Wisconsin.

Raised and stocked 10,850,000 fish, and produced 20.1 million fry for stocking: We operated 12 state fish hatcheries and rearing stations, three egg collection weirs, and 10 to 15 fish production ponds. In 2004-2005 we

produced 5.95 million trout and salmon fingerlings and yearlings, 6.2 million musky, walleye, bass, pike and sturgeon fingerlings, and 20.1 million fry for stocking in about 15 percent of state waters.

Reintroduced and stocked species for improved fishing: Musky hunters are enjoying a sport fishery with trophy potential in Green Bay as a result of our Great Lakes muskie reintroduction program. Targeted efforts to clean up Green Bay and improved water quality set the stage for local fishing clubs and fishery biologists to work together to reintroduce muskie to these big waters. Anglers report catching large fish and surveys show that fish mature later but grow faster than their cousins in inland lakes.

Our effort to expand shorefishing opportunities on Lake Michigan through experimental stocking of two strains of rainbow trout is paying off. As a recent example, an angler fishing from a pier landed a 33-inch 16.5 pound rainbow trout (Arlee strain) to win the steelhead category in the 2005 Port Washington Fishing Derby, and surveys show that two-thirds of Arlees caught are reeled in by people fishing from shore or small boats.

The reintroduction of sturgeon into the entire Wisconsin River system is continuing. In 2005, surveys documented the movement of young sturgeon into the Petenwell Flowage.

Trained a network of volunteer aquatic education instructors and sponsored clinics: Today's children are tomorrow's anglers and stewards of our aquatic resources. In 2004-2005, we provided workshops that trained 156 people, who in turn introduced more than 7,000 children and 300 adults to fishing and aquatic resources. Fisheries staff also sponsored kids fishing clinics and education classes. Our cooperative summer intern program with the Milwaukee Urban Ecology Center took 244 urban kids on multiple fishing trips in Milwaukee. We hope to expand the program next year.

Made sure you had the latest information on fish, aquatic resources, fishing opportunities, and DNR programs: We maintained comprehensive Web pages on the DNR Web site at www.fishingwisconsin.org, which has links to recent news releases, staff directories, searchable fish stocking, fish population and creel survey databases, places to go fishing, lands and fishing access directories, the latest fishing information, and DNR publications and reports. We also published regulation summaries, informational brochures, maps and educational materials and a spring Fishing Forecast newspaper found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/fish/pages/fishingreport/>.

Where are we going in 2005-2006?

Passage of a license fee increase during the 2005-2007 state budget process will allow fisheries to restore funding to programs that were cut in 2004-05 and will allow us to hire 19 biologist and technician positions that had been left vacant to save money. We will build on our successful partnerships with fishing and conservation clubs and use fisheries science to guide habitat work, stocking, and regulations to improve fishing today and in the future.



Wildlife

Chapter 2

Preserving, promoting and managing Wisconsin's wildlife populations and their habitats and promoting wildlife enjoyment and appreciation to benefit current and future generations.

The Fish & Wildlife Account pays for \$24.8 million or 83 percent of the \$29.8 million spent on wildlife programs, including 186 of the 207 positions assigned to wildlife programs.

The remaining 21 positions and \$5 million are funded through general tax funds, the Endangered Resources state income tax check-off and state vehicle license plate sales, federal and state grants and the rest of the Conservation Fund.

Where does the Wildlife program use your money?

(in millions of dollars)

Conduct research and monitor diseases	7.5
Develop regulations and issue permits	3.7
Reimburse farmers for crop damage	1.8
Improve habitat and monitor wildlife populations	4.2
Manage public lands	2.1
Stock game species	0.6
Inform and educate the public	1.3
Pay program operations costs (equipment, repairs, maintenance, fuel, etc.)	3.6
Total	\$24.8

How is wildlife work funded?

Funding Source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish & Wildlife Account		
License Fees	11.4	39
Turkey Stamp	0.6	2
Pheasant Stamp	0.4	1
Waterfowl Stamp	0.4	1
Pittman Robertson Federal Aid	4.1	14
Wildlife damage surcharge	3.4	11
Misc. grants and donations	4.5	15
Fish & Wildlife Account Subtotal	24.8	83
Rest of Conservation Fund	2.8	10
General Taxes (GPR)	2.2	7
Total	29.8	100

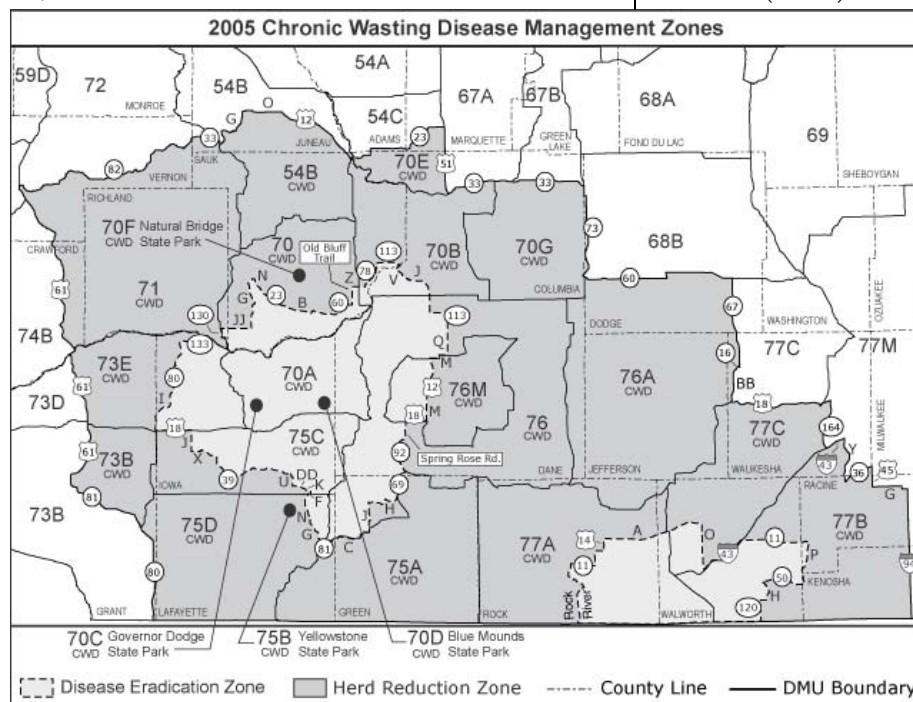
What did we accomplish for you in 2004–2005?

Chronic Wasting Disease control: Maintaining the health of Wisconsin's white-tailed deer herd by controlling chronic wasting disease (CWD) is the top priority for the wildlife program. Research, disease surveillance, public outreach, and deer

population reduction within disease zones remain keys to our efforts to control the disease. Wisconsin hunters took advantage of longer hunting seasons in 2004 and harvested approximately 54,800 deer in the Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) and approximately

15,980 deer from the disease eradication

zones (DEZ).



Significant progress has been made since CWD control began in 2002. Helicopter surveys in February and early March, 2005 indicated average deer density in winter 2005 to be 28 deer per square mile of habitat in the western DEZ. A 35 percent population reduction between winter 2003 and 2005 was estimated for the core area of this DEZ where disease prevalence is highest. Since 2001, in deer management unit 70A, which is located entirely within the DEZ, populations have fallen an estimated 40 percent, from 48 down to 29 deer per square mile. Antlerless harvest rates during 2002-2004 for unit 70A averaged 39 percent of the fall population, compared to a lower average of 25 percent during the previous five years.

For the 2004/05 season, including data current as of Feb. 28, 2006, 24,289 wild deer have been sampled for CWD. Of that number, 23,871 have been analyzed, with 128 testing positive. Since CWD's discovery in 2002, more than 99,000 deer have been tested statewide, with nearly 600 testing positive. For the most up-to-date CWD statistics, please visit the DNR Web site at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/Whealth/issues/Cwd/>.

An analysis of the geographic distribution of the CWD outbreak in southwest Wisconsin showed that the pattern of positives is tightly clustered, not random. Although the total affected area is more than 1,300 square miles, more than 80 percent of the positive deer have been found in a 126 square mile area bounded by Spring Green, Mazomanie, Black Earth, Mount Horeb, and Ridgeway. The geographic distribution of positives within the southwest cluster has been similar the last three years. Within the cluster's core, CWD prevalence among adult deer was similar in 2002, 2003, and 2004, at approximately 5 percent. There are four to five square miles within the core area that had a CWD prevalence of 8-12 percent.

An analysis of the sex and age composition of CWD-positive deer has shown that very few fawns test positive - only 10 out of more than 7,500 tested. Disease prevalence increases with age, and the rate of increase is faster in males than in females. Only two to three percent of yearling females and males from

the core area have tested positive for CWD. This increased to 4 percent of females and 10 percent of males for deer three years old or older.

We have worked with other state, university, and federal partners to initiate 34 research projects investigating how CWD functions and is transmitted, its effects on the deer herd and on hunters, and determining the effectiveness of our CWD management program.

Managing wildlife populations: We worked with citizens and conservation groups to set harvest quotas, hunting rules and regulations. We responded to 4,430 complaints about nuisance wildlife and received 2,247 contacts to the Urban Wildlife Program. Wildlife Management issued 135 permits to raise, rehabilitate, stock and collect game species. We've conducted numerous wildlife population surveys for a diverse variety of wildlife species.

Improve habitat and manage wildlife species: Our staff restored wetlands, maintained grasslands and forest openings, and built nests, dams, and other structures to create or enhance habitat on publicly-owned land and about 18,600 acres of privately-owned land. Staff provided technical assistance, enabling 1,549 landowners to improve habitat on their land.

Manage public lands: We improved access by leasing 112,895 acres as public hunting grounds and acquiring 5,623.74 acres for long-

term wildlife management. Our wildlife staff manage about 516,000 acres of hunter-accessible public lands to provide suitable habitat for game species.

Stock game species: While we strive for healthy, naturally-reproducing pheasant populations by enhancing habitat, stocking operations remain important. We raised and released 19,000 pheasants on 56 state properties and provided 48,000 day-old chicks to 47 conservation and hunting groups that raise and release the birds.

Reimburse farmers for wildlife damage: We issued 748 shooting permits and paid \$1.8 million in claims – a dollar from every hunting license and all deer bonus permit sales revenue – to farmers for crops damaged by bear, deer, elk, geese and turkeys in 2004. There were 7,902 deer harvested on shooting permits.

Inform and educate the public: Our interpretive programs and outdoor skills classes reached more than 40,531 people ranging from toddlers to senior citizens. We reached the broader public through media articles and interviews, and by answering questions at fairs, sports shows and Farm Technology Days.

Venison donations: Wisconsin hunters donated 7,207 deer to the 2005 Venison Donation Program, resulting in approximately 324,000 pounds of meat donated to needy families across Wisconsin.

Where are we going in 2005-2006?

Habitat protection and development: We will continue to emphasize habitat improvement efforts, using partnerships to stretch the funds provided through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, species stamps, North American Waterfowl Conservation Act, and other sources.

Bird conservation: We have accelerated work on conserving greater prairie chickens

and grassland birds by funding and participating in the Central Wisconsin Grasslands Conservation Area Partnership. This effort involves resource agencies, farmers, landowners, and non-governmental organizations to cooperatively implement a greater prairie chicken management plan. We are also building a cooperative partnership to translocate Greater Prairie Chickens from

Minnesota to Wisconsin over the next four to five years to stabilize the genetic health of the population.

We will work with over 140 conservation partners to further the efforts of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI). WBCI gave out more than \$100,000 in small grants in 2005, including money for research on high priority species such as golden-winged warblers, grassland birds, and black terns. WBCI is now looking beyond Wisconsin's borders to conserve birds in key wintering areas through the WBCI International committee, and build a comprehensive bird monitoring program.

CWD efforts: We will continue our learn-and-adapt approach to managing CWD by basing management strategies on research and surveillance findings as new information becomes available. During the 2005-06 deer hunting season, disease surveillance efforts will be focused in and around the two disease eradication zones, northeast Wisconsin and areas near CWD-positive game farms.

Herd reduction is key to managing CWD and we continue to rely on the cooperation of hunters and landowners to reduce the herd. Staff will make door-to-door contacts with landowners, carry out landowner and hunter surveys, produce and distribute public information materials, offer incentive programs, support a toll-free CWD information phone line, and take other actions

to stay in touch with landowners and hunters, address their concerns and desires, and foster support for CWD management strategies.

Deer hunting supports thousands of jobs in Wisconsin and is estimated to contribute close to \$1 billion to the state's economy. To safeguard Wisconsin's deer-hunting tradition and protect its economic, cultural and ecological importance, the department remains committed to doing everything it can to control the spread of CWD, and eventually eradicate it.

Customer Service: In 2006, we will be working to simplify deer season tagging procedures, automate deer registration data, preauthorize hunters in earn-a-buck units and conduct an audit of our deer population estimating procedure. Additionally, we will continue to provide customers with information on captive wildlife-related licenses and regulations, and we will continue efforts to simplify and help customers understand hunting and trapping regulations.

Wildlife research: Research continues to form the scientific basis for our management decisions. Activities include estimating the size of the deer, bear, otter, beaver, bobcat and fisher populations and recommending harvest quotas to maintain these populations. We coordinate and analyze more than 60 wildlife surveys to estimate population size and harvest. Current and continuing research studies underway include:

- an evaluation of deer population monitoring by assessing sex-age-kill population estimates, harvest predictions, and other deer population models.
- an investigation of wild duck productivity on private wetlands and grasslands in southern Wisconsin where habitat has been restored;
- an effort to identify the best places to restore wetland and grassland habitats to benefit pheasants, ducks and other grassland birds in south-central Wisconsin and evaluating restoration effectiveness;
- a number of studies investigating CWD and the effectiveness of CWD management;
- an evaluation of grassland bird management on large landscapes, including identifying nest predators and ways to mitigate nest loss to these species;
- a study testing methods to regenerate oak forests for wildlife and the entire oak ecosystem;

- a study of the effects of mercury on common loon populations;
- an evaluation of biological control of invasive purple loosestrife to restore native vegetation beneficial to wildlife;
- a large-scale study to determine ways to manage northern hardwood forests to accommodate more wildlife needs and increase biological diversity; and
- a study to determine habitat needs for the golden-winged warbler.





Law Enforcement

Chapter 3

Ensuring the right of all people to safely use, share and enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources through firm, fair and effective law enforcement, education, and partnerships with individuals and groups.

The Fish and Wildlife Account pays for \$15.5 million or 64 percent of the law enforcement program's \$24.2 million budget and 143 of its 223 positions.

The remaining 80 positions and \$8.7 million are provided through the Environmental Fund, Recycling Fund, boat, snowmobile and ATV registration fees, Federal grants, general tax funds and the rest of the Conservation Fund.

Where does the Law Enforcement program use your money?

(in millions of dollars)

Enforce fishing hunting and trapping laws	11.9
Inform and educate the public	0.5
Provide hunter education	0.9
Manage car-killed deer disposal	0.4
Pay program operations costs	1.8
Total	15.5

How is law enforcement work funded?

Funding Source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish and Wildlife Account		
License Fees	14.7	61
Federal Grants-Pittman Robertson Hunter Safety	0.8	3
Subtotal, Fish and Wildlife Fund	15.5	64
Rest of the Conservation Fund	4.9	20
General Taxes (GPR)	2.9	12
Environmental Fund	0.8	3
Recycling Fund	0.1	1
Total	24.2	100

What did we accomplish for you in 2004–2005?

New warden recruits: The support received from hunters and anglers through a license fee increase in 2005 enabled us to hire a small warden recruit class. This allows us to fill some vacancies following two years of no new recruits. Those warden recruits received extensive training and are now working out of

their assigned law enforcement posts around the state.

Enforce wildlife, fish and trapping laws: Conservation wardens protect Wisconsin's natural resources and help ensure fair hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities. State conservation wardens check hunters, anglers

and trappers for required licenses, and ensure that people follow bag limits, season limits and corresponding laws. Through these measures wildlife is adequately protected, allowing everyone to participate on a fair and equal level. Wardens are also responsible for reviewing applications, and conducting inspections and audits, in connection with special permits and licenses.

Wardens respond to thousands of citizen complaints about poaching and other hunting, fishing and public safety violations annually. Wardens rely on the public to be a key player in helping law enforcement staff apprehend people who take advantage of the state's natural resources.

In the course of their duties, wardens also protect habitat and public health by enforcing environmental and recreational safety laws with funds from other funding sources.

Annually, we continue to re-certify our wardens in new laws, investigative techniques, firearm skills and proficiency. Warden supervisors coach and direct field wardens to ensure our resources are used efficiently and effectively and laws are enforced fairly and consistently across the state.

Chronic Wasting Disease Control:

Wardens continue to assist in department efforts to combat chronic wasting disease by enforcing baiting and feeding laws, inspecting fences at all deer farms in the state, removing escaped captive deer from the landscape and other CWD activities. This work will continue to be important in the future if we are to reduce the potential for future outbreaks.

Significant investigations: Wardens concluded two major undercover operations in Wisconsin during 2005, resulting in the arrest of more than 50 suspects. The "Blue River Outfitter Case" and "Operation Urban Market" uncovered widespread commercialization and destruction of deer,

turkey and fish. Both cases involved private individuals gaining financially by the illegal commercialization of the public's natural resources. Making these cases was possible through public cooperation, excellent warden effort, the use of technology and assistance from other law enforcement agencies.

Inform and educate the public: Informing people about Wisconsin's fish and wildlife regulations is an important part of law enforcement's duties. In addition to one-on-one contact, wardens present this information at schools, conservation clubs, civic organizations and other group meetings. Wardens routinely work with radio and television stations to deliver information to a broader public. Often wardens write regular columns for local newspapers to share timely information about regulations. Wardens also worked at the Wisconsin State Fair, Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival and local county fairs. These efforts allow wardens to reach several million people each year.

Provide hunter education: An important priority for the law enforcement program is to continue to promote responsible conduct among natural resource users.

Wisconsin's hunting accident rate has fallen 90 percent since our hunter safety program began in 1967. More than 846,000 students have graduated from Wisconsin's hunter education courses in the last 38 years and more than 37,900 bow hunters have graduated from the bow hunter education program. Wisconsin DNR boasts the largest corps of volunteer hunter educator instructors in North America (approximately 5,000 volunteers). Wardens assist in recruiting new instructors to coordinate the program, publicize safe hunting practices and conduct presentations during class time.

The department has developed and offers alternate ways to help people obtain hunter education certifications, such as through the Internet. While these delivery methods are

useful, we do require that students who take a hunter education course online also complete one field day for training and evaluation so we can assess how prepared they are for using firearms while hunting. The hunter education program also provides access to shooting ranges through cooperative efforts with clubs.

Manage vehicle-killed deer disposal: During 2005, deer-vehicle collisions resulted

in more than 41,000 dead deer. Possession tags were issued to people who claimed 4,600 of those deer. The department, under the management of the Bureau of Law Enforcement, contracts to have the remaining unclaimed deer hauled away from the roadside and disposed of. In 2004-05, contracts worth \$722,488 were awarded, half of which comes from general tax revenue.

Where are we going in 2006?

Enforce wildlife, fishing, trapping laws: 2005 starts the 127th year of Wisconsin's warden service. The warden service has adjusted to changing times and is proud to continue protecting Wisconsin's natural resources and those who enjoy them.

Local focus: Wardens will continue to focus on "community wardening," which encourages conservation wardens to become actively involved in local organizations and in building partnerships with citizens, public officials, media, legislators and private and public groups in their area.

Promoting the future of hunting, fishing and trapping: Wardens will participate in the first Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo 2006, <http://www.wisexpo.com>. Wardens will provide their time and effort in promoting outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, archery and outdoor skills at this event, as well as at the Learn to Hunt and Archery in the Schools program.

The warden service is developing a strategic plan to assess and prepare for future changes in natural resources protection, technology, demographic trends and hunting and fishing participation and practices. Our plan will include ways to encourage more young people to get involved in the outdoors. This planning effort is expected to last throughout the year

and when completed, will provide direction for the next 5 -7 years.

Protect natural resources: Wardens will continue to devote more effort to preventing the commercialization of natural resources, and to stem the introduction of exotic and invasive species to protect Wisconsin's outdoor heritage and its tourism-related economy.

Recruit wardens to fill vacancies: Approximately 24 vacancies will remain open in 2006. Filling these vacancies will be a priority in order to ensure protection of Wisconsin's natural resources and the safety of people who enjoy them.

Technology: The warden service will replace aging radios and computer systems with new funds the legislature provided in 2005. Officers will continue to make the best use of available technologies so they can perform their duties and serve the public as efficiently and quickly as possible.

In addition to fish and game funding sources, other funding sources provide for other conservation wardens and staff who, in addition to fish and game duties, devote time to habitat, environmental protection and recreational public safety duties that benefit all citizens and our natural resources.



Facilities and Lands

Chapter 4

Acquiring, planning, and managing land, buildings, boat ramps, and other recreational facilities so all citizens can enjoy Wisconsin's beauty and outdoor recreation.

The Fish & Wildlife Account pays for \$8.1 million or 13 percent of the \$62.2 million facilities and lands program and 56 of its 113 positions.

The remaining 57 positions and \$54.1 million are provided through the Conservation Fund, General Tax Funds, Environmental Fund, Recycling Fund, Petroleum Storage Cleanup Fund, Clean Water Fund as well as the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and Federal Grants.

Where does the Facilities and Lands program use your money?

Acquire public land for hunting fishing and boating access sites

Plan for public use of lands and facilities

Manage and maintain DNR lands

Design and build recreational and public use facilities

How is facilities and lands work funded?

Funding Source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish & Wildlife Account	8.1	13
Rest of Conservation Fund	19.6	32
General Tax Fund	32.4	52
Environmental Fund	1.1	2
Recycling Fund	0.2	<1
Petroleum Storage Cleanup Fund	0.5	1
Clean Water Fund Environmental Improvement Fund	0.3	<1
Total	62.2	100

What did we accomplish for you in 2004–2005?

Acquire land: In 2004–05, we purchased 17,800 acres and secured easements on an additional 8,058 acres of land for a total cost of \$39 million. These purchases included large additions to properties such as the North Branch of the Milwaukee River, Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, and the South Shore of Lake Superior Fisheries and Wildlife Areas. This brings the department's ownership to over 1.5 million

acres, with about 95 percent of the land open for hunting, fishing and related recreational access.

Plan for public use of lands and facilities: We work with citizens to develop "master plans" that identify activities allowed on certain properties -- from building roads and parking areas to managing wildlife habitat and timber -- and what the land will look like 10, 20 and 30 years down the road. These master plans generally take several years to complete.

In 2004-05, we completed studies for the development and expansion of Rib Mountain State Park and Northern Highland American Legion State Forests. We also continued master planning efforts for the Lower Wolf River Bottoms and the Peshtigo River State Forest, Capital Springs Badger Trail and Buckhorn State Parks, and Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest

Manage and maintain department lands:

Ensuring that people have a safe, enjoyable experience on public conservation and recreation lands requires a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Tasks range from maintaining parking lots, roads, bridges, and campgrounds to sampling well water, managing portable-toilet contracts, assuring access to facilities for people with disabilities and enforcing regulations on properties.

To reduce spending called for in the state budget, the Facilities and Lands program reduced some land management and property

maintenance on public lands. These reductions occurred in areas that would have the least impact on property users.

We are responsible for developing basic management policies and procedures for all department properties, including the 1 million acres that make up the state's wildlife and fishery areas. Our facilities and lands staff manage the land on 152 fishery areas, several major flowages and rivers, and hundreds of DNR-owned public boat access sites.

Design and build recreational facilities:

People need roads, parking lots, trails, boat launches and restrooms to enjoy department-owned land. We work with other state agencies and with consultants and contractors to facilitate the design and construction of these structures. In 2004-05, we took 310 projects through the budget and design process, and oversaw construction on a similar number of projects, including 31 new boat access projects and 12 fishing piers.

Where are we going in 2005-2006?

The department will continue implementing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, which was reauthorized in 2000 and has \$60 million a year approved through the state budget process. The Stewardship Fund allows us to continue to acquire land for the public's use and benefit, and make grants to local governments for conservation purposes. This funding will help offset higher acquisition and development costs caused by rising land prices, and ensure the department's ability to obtain and develop significant properties for public enjoyment, like hunting and fishing, and natural resource protection.

Capitol Springs and Buckhorn State Parks. We will continue planning the Black River State Forest and the Wolf River Bottoms, and we will be completing feasibility studies for the

Land acquisitions: Acquire 15,000-plus acres across the state, many within fishery and wildlife areas.

Construction projects: Complete work on approved 2005-2006 capital development budget projects. We expect to complete about 300 development projects, including 25 boat access site renovations and new developments, including starting renovation of the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, a \$24 million, multi-year project that will provide 94% of the fish stocked in Lake Michigan.

Property planning: We expect to complete master plans for Peshtigo River State Forest,

Southwest Grasslands Project and the Glacial Heritage Area in western Jefferson County.

Some road and building improvements and land maintenance activities will not be completed, or will be deferred, due to reduced funding for roads and building developments and operations. We will also lose 1.6 full time staff.





Licenses

Chapter 5

Working to provide anglers and hunters with convenient ways to buy licenses, register their boats and get quick, consistent answers to their questions about regulations, licenses and natural resources.

The Fish & Wildlife Account pays for 58 percent of the \$10.3 million license program and 66 of its 128 positions.

The remaining 62 positions and \$4.3 million are provided through general tax funds, the environmental fund, and the boat, all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile accounts of the Conservation Fund.

Where does the Licenses program use your money?

Sell hunting, fishing, trapping licenses
Issue special wildlife harvest permits
Issue commercial farm and occupational licenses
Keep customers and license agents informed
Pay program operation costs
Answer resident and out of state customer inquiries

How is licenses work funded?

Funding Source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish & Wildlife Account	6.0	58
Rest of Conservation Fund	3.6	35
General Fund	0.6	6
Environmental Fund	0.1	1
Total	10.3	100

What did we accomplish for you in 2004–2005?

Sell hunting, fishing, trapping and other licenses: Through the use of an Automated License Issuance System (ALIS), the DNR issues licenses, permits and stamps for hunting, fishing and trapping.

This system enables customers to purchase their licenses over the counter from approximately 1,450 license agents located in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa as well as from the 31 DNR service centers. Customers also may purchase their licenses by phone or over the Internet. Staff also manage license revocations in the ALIS database.

The DNR Hunting & Fishing License Internet Sales site allows customers to print many different types of licenses on their home

printers. (Licenses that require a back tag and/or carcass tag may be purchased online but will be delivered to the customer by mail.) Customer response to the Internet sales site continues to increase and it is becoming a very popular method of purchasing licenses.

The department is able to access vital marketing information using its customer database and to track sales trends and statistics. The automated system also promptly deposits revenue from the sale of licenses through an electronic transfer of funds.

Issue special wildlife harvest permits: DNR administers nine hunting and/or trapping permit programs. Through an

application and drawing process, customers are required to obtain permits, in addition to hunting or trapping licenses and stamps, to pursue antlerless deer, turkey, bear, goose, sharp-tailed grouse, bobcat, otter and fisher. Customers can choose to submit their permit application choices over the Internet or by mail.

Customers can also visit the DNR Web site to determine whether they were awarded a permit and check their ongoing preference status for each drawing. Customers are also now notified of their preference status when they pay the application fee at an agent location. New this year, all antlerless bonus deer permits were issued over-the-counter to customers on a first-come first-serve basis.

Total licenses sold for hunting and fishing in Wisconsin

FY	Hunters	Anglers	TOTAL
2000-01	773,239	1,393,630	2,166,869
2001-02	763,063	1,430,714	2,193,777
2002-03	689,099	1,394,630	2,083,729
2003-04	716,200	1,413,804	2,130,004
2004-05	722,803	1,391,173	2,113,976

Issue commercial farm and occupational licenses: The license program issues various captive wildlife licenses and occupational/business licenses, including guide, taxidermist, bait dealer, fur dealer, wholesale fish dealer, and Mississippi River commercial fishing licenses. New this year, taxidermist, bait dealer, fur dealer and guide licenses were added to the ALIS system, allowing customers to renew their license at any license sales location, online or by phone.

Educate customers and license agents: The licensing database provides our staff with up-to-date information so they can assist both internal and external customers. We maintain information on the DNR Web site and develop handouts and brochures that educate customers. Our staff is responsible for distributing millions of regulation pamphlets, maps and other informational brochures to license agents and customers.

Pay program operation costs: Planning licensing work, securing technical services, cooperating with other DNR programs, paying for equipment and repairs and covering insurance and salaries are all vital to getting the job done. To meet budget cuts in 2004-05, the Customer Service and Licensing program further reduced office hours at some service center locations.

Where are we going in 2005-2006?

In partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, the Bureau of Customer Service & Licensing will develop processes to conduct an upriver sturgeon spearing preference drawing.

After the spring and fall turkey drawings, we will issue any remaining permits to customers on a first-come first-serve basis at all license agent locations.

Based on feedback from our customers, we will work to simplify and redesign deer carcass tags.

We will collect feedback from internal and external partners, evaluate current technology and begin the procurement process to replace the existing Automated License Issuance System.



Regional Management

Chapter 6

Providing leadership and direction to Land, Enforcement, Water and other staff in regions and local geographic areas

The Fish & Wildlife Account paid \$1.5 million of the \$5.2 million the department spent on regional managers in 2004-05, which equates to 14 of the 52 regional manager positions that supervise field staff. The \$1.5 million represents 1.7 percent of total Fish and Wildlife Account expenditures for 2004-05, and about 29 percent of the \$5.2 million the department spent on regional management.

The remaining 38 positions and \$3.7 million of regional management expenditures are paid for through general purpose tax revenue, environmental funds, and the rest of the Conservation Fund.

Where does Regional Management use your money?

Maintain contact with local government, conservation groups and citizens on fish and wildlife issues
Direct department field wildlife, fisheries and warden staff and the work they do in local geographic areas
Develop and lead citizen partnership teams in local geographic areas
Oversee consistency of decisions and policies across regions

How is regional management work funded?

Funding source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish & Wildlife Account	1.5	29
Rest of Conservation Fund	0.7	12
General Fund	2.9	56
Environmental Fund	0.1	3
Total	5.2	100

What did we accomplish for you in 2004-2005?

Maintain contact with citizens on fish and wildlife issues: Our field managers continue to work on numerous projects with DNR staff and with a wide range of partners that include local conservation clubs, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, government agencies, and statewide or national organizations.

High priorities include maintaining contact with hunters, anglers and other citizens, gathering input on decisions, explaining department policies and initiatives and answering citizens' questions.

Direct field staff and the work they do: Our managers provide leadership, training and direction to all DNR field staff—including those in fish, wildlife, enforcement and licensing—as these employees make daily decisions affecting natural resources in local geographic areas.

Develop and lead local partnerships: The DNR supports local partnerships that pull together people and organizations interested in natural resources. Partnerships work to restore habitats, manage local natural resources, collect essential data for planning

and natural resource policy-making participation.

Oversee consistency of decisions and policies across Regions: Field managers

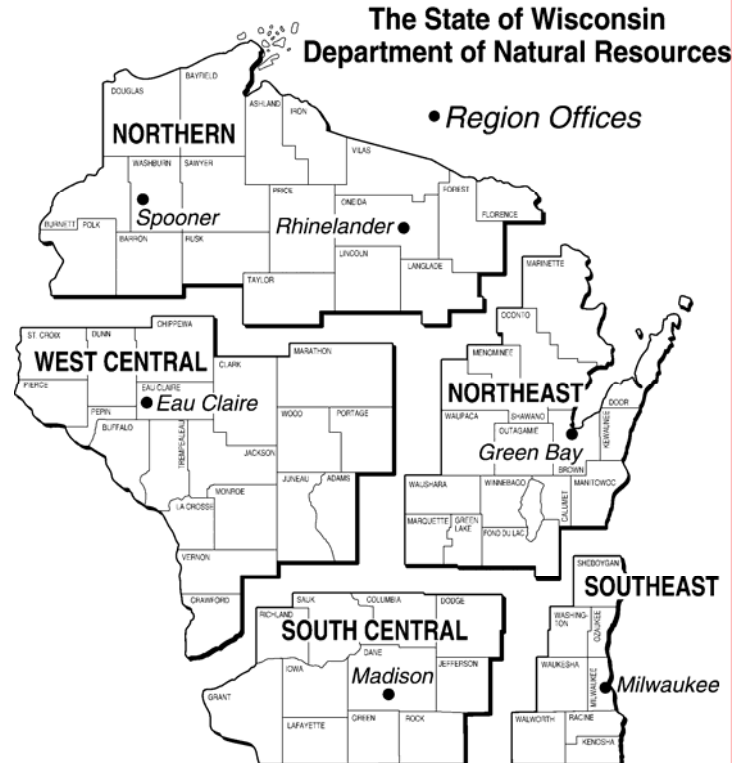
work to build consistency in policy and practice across regional boundaries, working for the equitable treatment of all Wisconsin's citizens.

Where are we going in 2004-2005?

Direct field staff and the work they do.

Continue to build local partnerships: Efforts continue to refine and improve partnerships, share information and decision making with partners, and move forward to implement the recommendations of these teams.

Manage for consistent application of policy across programs and the state: Maintain communication across programs and regions to ensure consistent policy application.





Administration and Support

Chapter 7

The business function of the department provides direction and support that helps the rest of the department's programs function.

The Fish & Wildlife Account paid \$6.1 million of the department's \$30.2 million administration and support budget and 75 of its 351 positions. The \$6.1 million represents 7.1 percent of total Fish and Wildlife Account expenditures for 2004-05, and 20 percent of the department's \$30.2 million administration and support budget.

The remaining 276 positions and \$24.1 million for DNR administration and support services are provided through general purpose tax revenue, the Environmental Fund, Clean Water Fund, Recycling Fund, Petroleum Storage Cleanup Fund, Dry Cleaner Fund, and the rest of the Conservation Fund.

Where does Administration and support use your money?

Meet with fishing and hunting organizations, government agencies, legislators and the public
Provide legal services
Administer programs funded by fish and wildlife account
Manage collective bargaining, recruiting, hiring and training
Provide computer support and develop technology solutions for government and public needs
Pay bills and manage payroll, benefits and financial records
Communicate with the public, educate children, reach teachers and involve citizens in decisions
Manage and distribute grants
Provide mail services and distribute publications

Under Wisconsin statutes, DNR spending from the Fish and Wildlife Account to cover administrative and support costs may not exceed 16 percent of expenditures from in a fiscal year. Administrative and support spending is comprised of expenditures described in this chapter (Chapter 7), and

How is administration work funded?

Funding source	\$ (in millions)	%
Fish & Wildlife Account	6.1	20
Rest of Conservation Fund	13.4	44
General Fund	7.1	24
Environmental Fund	1.2	4
Recycling Fund	0.3	1
Petroleum Storage Cleanup Fund	0.2	1
Clean Water Fund	1.8	6
Dry Cleaner Fund	0.1	<1
Total	30.2	100

expenditures described under Regional Management (Chapter 6). \$7.3 million in license fees were spent on these activities in 2004-2005. This represents 10.6% of license fee expenditures, well below the 16 percent statutory cap.

What did we accomplish for you in 2004–2005?

Meet with fishing and hunting organizations, government agencies, legislators and the public: Significant amounts of time were spent this year meeting and talking with partners on Wisconsin natural resource issues, programs and funding.

Future of hunting, fishing and trapping:

The department continued work outlined in the Future of Hunting, Fishing and Trapping 2020 Plan. More than 1,000 people participated in more than 50 “Learn to Hunt” programs. We collaborated with the Fish and Habitat Angler Education program to deliver a range of angler resource education materials for teaching purposes. Once again, three Wisconsin Angler Education instructors were awarded \$5,000 physical education grants to enhance fishing education efforts in their school physical education curricula. The grants were sponsored by the Future Fisherman Foundation in conjunction with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the American Association for Leisure and Recreation and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Furthermore, conservation partners provided donations and grants that enabled continued public access to more than 30,000 acres of leased hunting lands in southeastern Wisconsin.

Provide legal services: Legal services staff draft administrative rules and statutory language; develop contracts for land purchases and leases, animal damage and land rights; interpret laws and represent fish and wildlife programs in a variety of legal actions.

Administer programs funded by Fish & Wildlife Account: Administrators lead and direct the staff who perform the services that support Wisconsin’s fish and wildlife programs. They work with the Natural Resources Board, Governor’s Office, Legislature, Wisconsin’s members of

Congress, local, state and federal government agencies and numerous conservation and natural resources organizations and citizens.

Manage our workforce: 804 of the 2,814.75 employees who work for the DNR are funded by Fish & Wildlife dollars. We have a strong commitment to our staff, who work diligently to protect Wisconsin’s hunting and fishing heritage. Our leadership development training program prepares current employees to become leaders in carrying out the department’s mission in the future.

Provide information technology: Support computer equipment and programming that help wildlife, fisheries and warden staff manage species and habitat, provide efficient enforcement of laws and move us toward e-government where information, licenses and other services are readily available to citizens online.

More of the DNR’s information and services are being designed for the Internet for customer convenience and to reduce costs. Citizens can use the Internet to review and comment on agency rulemaking, subscribe to receive weekly news packets, purchase hunting and fishing licenses, and check on preference winner status or the results of CWD sampling in deer.

Pay bills and manage payroll, benefits and financial records: Maintaining good financial records, purchasing supplies for fish and wildlife managers at a good price, managing efficient financial processes and systems, paying bills and providing payroll and benefits to our employees are vital to our organization.

Communicate with media, citizens and teachers and involve citizens in decisions: Our weekly news packet, including several special editions on chronic wasting disease, hunting and fishing, is distributed to media outlets that published or broadcast stories

reaching citizens statewide. To save printing and mailing costs, the *DNR News* and *Outdoor Report* are primarily distributed electronically through a listserve. The *DNR News* is among the top 10 most visited pages on the DNR Web site. Sign up for free DNR email updates at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/news/listserv/index.asp>.

Environmental Education for Kids (EEK!), our award-winning online magazine for kids (www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek/), continues to help children both in school and at home learn more about Wisconsin's natural resources. EEK! passed the three million mark in visitor sessions in 2005, with 3,103,982 visits (36,870,173 hits) for the year. It continues to be popular with both children and their teachers. The DNR also is responsible for educational content on *Into the Outdoors*, a TV program for kids produced in cooperation with Discover Media Works, Inc.

Now in its 30th year of publishing, *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine has a paid circulation of 105,000. Subscription revenues pay for the magazine's staff, production, distribution and promotion. Its Web site, www.wnrmag.com, has links to every story included in the magazine since 1995. The site receives about 700,000 visits a year, and is popular for browsing and research. The magazine also sends out free monthly electronic newsletters to interested subscribers sharing interesting and timely information. Sign up for free email updates at <http://www.wnrmag.com/update/list.htm>.

***Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine**

"Just a note to thank the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for publishing this beautiful and informative magazine. I just got through reading the August 2005 issue and had to let you know how much I enjoyed all the articles. There's always something that gives you more knowledge on a subject or just takes you away to somewhere special in Wisconsin. ...Keep up the good work of reporting about the great outdoors in Wisconsin, this wonderful state we call home."

Manage and distribute grants: Local government and nonprofit groups, clubs and individual citizens play important roles in protecting and enhancing Wisconsin's environment and providing recreational opportunities. We manage and distribute Fish & Wildlife Account funds as grants to help others improve habitat, acquire land and protect stream banks.

Provide mail services and distribute publications: Our mail and publications staff make sure agency customers get the publications they request. We also are responsible for delivering mail to the DNR central office in Madison, our 31 service centers and other state and federal agencies. In 2005 we distributed about 3.6 million fishing, deer hunting, small game hunting, trapping, boating, snowmobile, ATV and various other regulation pamphlets plus 4.75 million publications and forms. We also sent class materials for about 65,151 students in hunter, boating, ATV and snowmobile law enforcement safety programs.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources MISSION

To protect and enhance our natural resources:
our air, land and water;
our wildlife, fish and forests
and the ecosystems that sustain all life.

To provide a healthy, sustainable environment
and a full range of outdoor opportunities.

To ensure the right of all people
to use and enjoy these resources
in their work and leisure.

To work with people
to understand each other's views
and to carry out the public will.

And in this partnership
consider the future and generations to follow.



Wisconsin's Fish and Wildlife Annual Report

If you have suggestions or comments about this publication, please send them to

CE/8

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